

PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAST FACTS (excluding Town of Madison properties)

How can I pay my taxes?

Escrow Checks: Any arrangements with an escrow agent are between you and that agent. If you are paying with an escrow check, please make sure your check is properly endorsed before it is given to the City. Checks made payable jointly or singly to the City cannot be deposited in your personal bank account and will not be endorsed back to the taxpayer. Escrow checks must be applied to the entire outstanding tax bill. If an escrow check is more than the actual amount due, no immediate refunds will be issued for the difference. A refund check will be processed by the City within 2 to 3 weeks. Refunds are made to the owner of record. You may also arrange for your escrow agent to reissue a check for the correct amount.

Checks: Payments made on or before January 31 should be made payable to and mailed to the City of Fitchburg Treasurer. **Do not include any other payments to the City on the same check.** Postdated checks will not be honored.

There is a \$25.00 fee charged on all returned checks. If a check is returned, credit for the tax payment is reversed and the check is NOT re-deposited. Tax receipts are not valid until payment has cleared the bank. **Payments made after January 31 should be payable to and mailed to the Dane County Treasurer.**

Do NOT use your bank's online bill pay service.

Cash: Payments can be made in person at City Hall. Please do not use the drop-box or mail if you are paying in cash.

Online Check or Credit Card using PSN:

Credit card payments are only accepted through a third-party processor. This service is available 24 hours a day **up until three days before the due date** and provides a confirmation number for your records. This service is NOT available after January 28.

<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/704/Online-Payments>

Note: A third-party convenience fee is charged for using this service. **Credit card fee: 2.75% or Check fee: \$1.00.** You will be informed of the amount prior to authorizing the charge.

Where do I pay my taxes?

Mail: Payments by check can be mailed to the City at 5520 Lacy Road; Fitchburg, WI 53711. Cash payments by mail are not recommended. Be sure to enclose the payment stub.

Drop-Box: A drop-box is available 24/7 in the foyer of City Hall. Cash payments in the drop-box are not recommended.

In Person: Bring your entire bill. Normal office hours are 7:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, except for:

Offices will be CLOSED:

- Ø Friday, December 23, 2022
- Ø Monday, December 26, 2022
- Ø Monday, January 2, 2023
- Ø Monday, January 16, 2023

Online: Credit card payments can be made through the City's online processor (see section under 'How can I pay my taxes?' for important details). The City recommends NOT using your bank's online bill payment system.

\$4.67 billion

Total assessed value of all property within the City as of 1/1/22 (an increase of 18.1% from 2021's total assessed value of \$3.95 billion)

10,386

Total number of parcels within the City, including 9,609 real property and 777 personal property accounts

\$378,500

Assessed value of the 2022 average home (an increase of 14.7% from the 2021 average home value of \$330,100)

\$170.6 million

Net new construction value, which is 4.16% of the 2021 equalized value

\$19.05

Average overall tax rate per \$1,000 in assessed value for 2022 (a decrease of \$3.00 from 2021's average overall tax rate of \$22.05)

-13.6%

Average overall assessed value tax rate change, which varies by school district

-15.3%

Change in assessed value tax rate for City government purposes

-\$67

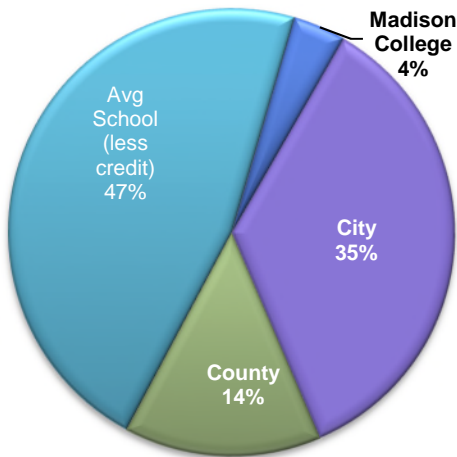
Change in the average home's total tax bill, which is a 0.9% decrease and varies by school district

-\$75

Change in the average home's tax bill used for City government purposes (from \$2,617 to \$2,542 which is -2.9%)

What makes up my tax bill?

Your tax bill includes allocations from several different jurisdictions, not just the City of Fitchburg. Below is the average allocation by taxing authority:



The City is not responsible for setting the property tax levies for these other jurisdictions. For questions or comments about your taxes, please contact the appropriate entity.

When are my taxes due?

The first installment for real property taxes is due **January 31st**. The full tax amount for personal property is due by January 31st.

A timely US postmark is adequate for a payment to be considered paid on time, if the payment is received within five business days.

All payments made after January 31 should be made payable to and mailed to the Dane County Treasurer.

How do I change an address or name on a tax bill?

To correct your tax bill mailing address, note the change on the portion of the tax bill mailed with your payment and the City will make the change.

The City cannot change the name(s) on a tax bill. Instead contact the Dane County Register of Deeds. FAQs available online: <https://treasurer.countyofdane.com/fag/home/index> or call (608) 266-4141 for a recorded message with contact information

How can I get a receipt?

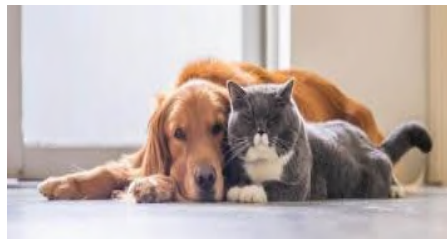
Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope along with your tax bill and payment (or send separately if your bill is paid directly by an escrow agent).

E-Bills, E-Receipts, and E-statements are available online through the Access Dane website (hosted by Dane County). Payments made to the City for property taxes are updated on Access Dane in the middle of January and the middle of February.

<https://accessdane.countyofdane.com/>

Use the public portal and parcel search features to search by owner, address, or parcel number.

Payments through the third-party credit card acceptor will receive a confirmation at the time of payment that can serve as a receipt.



How do I get a dog and/or cat license?

All dogs are required to be licensed by the City. Cat licenses are required for all cats living within the urban service area. Urban service area is commonly known as an area receiving City water and sewer services.

A new online licensing process is being implemented by the City. See the website for more details:

www.fitchburgwi.gov/PetLicense

What is a lottery credit?

The lottery credit program is a property tax relief program offered through the State. Your tax bill qualifies for a lottery credit if either:

- ☐ As of January 1, 2022 you owned the home and used it as your primary residence, or
- ☐ The property being taxed was owned by someone else and used as their primary residence on January 1, 2022.

Your tax bill does NOT qualify for a lottery credit for this tax bill if your home was newly built and completed after January 1, 2022. If it meets the criteria, it would be eligible for the lottery credit on next year's tax bill.

If you claimed the lottery credit in the past, that certification is generally good until you certify that you no longer qualify. Your current bill should continue to show a lottery credit. If not, contact the City to discuss at (608) 270-4270.

Please check your bill for the credit. If you qualify for the credit and have not filed a claim form, you may request a late claim form by contacting our office by phone or when you come in to pay your bill. The deadline for claiming the 2022 lottery credit with the City is January 31, 2023. A late claim can be filed directly with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue from February 1, 2023 until October 1, 2023.

Additional information on the lottery credit program is also available on the Department of Revenue website at:

<https://www.revenue.wi.gov/Pages/FAQS/slf-lotcr.aspx>

What is the 'Trash P/U' special charge?

There is a \$228/unit special charge on each single to four-unit residential property tax bill included in the City's service area for base refuse and recycling collection service. This charge is for base service in 2023. For more information see:

<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/818/CurbSide-Refuse-Recycling-Collection>



FOR MORE INFORMATION

City of Fitchburg Treasurer:

(608) 270-4270 – Finance Department
(608) 270-4200 – General City Hall
5520 Lacy Road
Fitchburg, WI 53711
7:30 am to 4:30 pm
Monday through Friday
(except holidays)
www.fitchburgwi.gov

Dane County Treasurer:

(608) 266-4151
<http://treasurer.countyofdane.com>
<https://accessdane.countyofdane.com/>

Wisconsin Department of Revenue's "Guide for Property Owners":

www.revenue.wi.gov/pubs/slf/pb060.pdf